



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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SPOROBOLUS ASPER **LONGLEAF DROPSEED**

Longleaf Dropseed is a perennial grass with solitary or clustered, erect stems that are 20-120 cm tall. Leaves are flat to inrolled and 1-5 mm wide, each with a long-pointed tip. Leaf sheaths may have long hairs at the top, and there is a short, fringed ligule. Foliage is roughened to short-hairy. Short-stalked, tightly erect spikelets are borne in a highly branched but spike-like inflorescence that is up to 18 cm long. Part of the inflorescence is usually enclosed by the uppermost leaf sheath. Each lance-shaped spikelet has 1 flower that is 3-6 mm long and consisting of two unequal length glumes enclosing a longer lemma and a palea of ca. equal length. Mature fruit in August.

Both *SPOROBOLUS CRYPTANDRUS* and *S. AIROIDES* have spikelets less than 3 mm long and usually have more open inflorescences.